

The Caledonian Mercury.

Edinburgh, Tuesday, October 20, 1730.

To the Author of the Weekly Journal.

SIR,

I am a constant Reader of your Paper; and am particularly satisfied with those excellent Pictures which pathetically represent the Decay of Religion and Morality among us in this Age: And I assure you, if a Stop be not put to the Corruption both of Principles and Practices which now prevail among the younger Sort, that I firmly believe, Heaven, by some heavy Judgments, will interpose and work a Reformation; for there's no correcting or reforming of Nations, when their Iniquities are full, but in this way.

There's no Man on the Face of the Earth hath more Reason to complain of this than I; and I am perswaded you will join Issue with me in the following Account.

I had a Son always brought up under my own Eye; in Religion and Learning he made an equal Progress, was a Comfort to his Parents, and a Credit to the Minister who instructed him. All who examined him, declared his Judgment was solid beyond his Years, and that he had Learning, without its Attendants in our publick Places of Literature at this Day, *viz.* Vice and Immorality.

I was over-perswaded to put him in the Temple; where when he had continued almost a Year, he in the Vacation came down to see us; but I found a strange Alteration in him as to Religion; he had entirely lost that Seriousness in it he had from his Infancy; he lay in Bed on Sundays commonly till Noon, and I found it was with Reluctancy he went to Church but once a-day, and was become extremely backward to read Prayers in the Family, which he did formerly with the greatest Fervency and Zeal: At all which I was much disturbed.

Term Time returning, he dutifully took Leave of me and his Mother, and returned to his Chambers: But he was scarce a Month there, before I was sent for to receive his last Breath. On receiving this melancholly News, I set out for London; where I found him delirious and senseless, and a Surgeon with him, who had opened a Vein in each

Arm: for his Distemper was a violent burning Fever, attended with a Pleurisy. Next Morning he came to himself, and to keep him from Noise, I removed him to a Friend's House.

When he was settled in an easy Chair, I sat by him; then he fell upon my Face and wept, and after giving a Vent to his Tears, he spoke thus: O! if the Minister, my Master, was here, I'd open my Mind to him; for the Flame of my Conscience is more violent than that of my Fever: But as he is not, I will act the repenting Prodigal with you.

You may imagine this Address surprized me, but the Tenderness of a Parent gave way to it, expecting what he had to say might be grounded on his Remissness in the Duties of Religion, as before I have said. But alas! the Case was quite otherwise; he made a Confession to me in these Words:

" Father, I must to my Confusion own, that I have been a Deist since ever I came here: I stood it out for a Month; but my Companions brought me Berbocrac's prefatory Introduction to Puffendorff's Law of Nature and Nations, and from thence argued, That Christian Religion was no more but a Comment of the Fathers, who at best were but a Pack of Enthusiasts, Persecutors, immoral, ignorant and sanguinary Vilains; and that Pythagoras, Thales, Anaxagoras, &c. and above all, Confucius the Chinese Philosopher, had more Religion and Morality, than all the Fathers put together. At last they jested on the Trinity, and on the Incarnation of the Son of God, as the Effects of the holy Fathers Enthusiasm and Stupidity. And what above all took most with me, was a rigid Dissenter's saying that there was nothing in Religion; and that for his Part, he would form himself into that Shape by the which he expected to get most Practice in the Law. Having by these Arguments given the Loose to my old Principles, I entred into all the Measures of Excess with them; the Consequence of which is my present Distemper."

However, in a few Weeks he recovered so much Strength,

Strength, as to go by easy Journeys to the Country; where, at his Desire, I got the *Fathers*, and best Commentators on the Bible, from which he made a Collection upon most of the Moral Virtues, and concluded, that there could be no true Peace without a full Knowledge of them; and continued mostly weeping, for Fear God had cast him off for his Degeneracy.

One Day, in the Summer-house, as he turn'd his Eye upon *Salvian*, he said, --- "Honoured Father, I think the State of this Nation is very much like that of the *Romans*, when the *Goths* and *Barbarians* subdued them; they profess'd Christianity, yet, in the mean time, they made a Jest of every Virtue it enjoy'd; for which, saith he, God disowned them so far, that they became tame Slaves to these barbarous People, to whom before they would not vouchsafe the Honour of Alliance or of Peace."

From the Summer-house we went into the Hall; but he no sooner sat down, but a tickling Cough seized him, which gradually increased till it came to the greatest Degree of Vehemence, and at last by it there broke an Ulcer in his Lungs, which immediately strangled or suffocated him. To mention my Grief is needless. God only knows how great it is. --- I only write this for the Warning of others, --- especially to young Students of the Law, --- that they may not be the Cause of so great Sorrow to their Parents in this corrupt Age, as my Son hath been to his tender Mother and me.

I am, &c.

W. B.

Extract of a Letter from Paris,

The Spanish Expedition, which made so much Noise in the World, is gone off like the Report of a Cannon, in nothing but Noise; whether they will charge and fire (that is, make a Noise again) next Summer, may be known by the Wise when that Time comes. --- It appears now that the Imbarkation from England was not intended to join the Spaniards; for a certain Minister in Spain declared to the Spanish Court, that nothing could be done in that Affair without the Participation of their Ally the King of France; and another Ambassador was pleased to signify something to the same Effect to the Marquis de Santa Cruz here; upon which something was said by the said Marquis, which perhaps you will not venture to declare, tho' one should tell it you; for as a News-writer you ought to be punished if you don't keep Secrets. --- You have heard, probably, that the Fair of Porto-bello is to be held

in October; so that tho' the Schedule which the Court of Spain granted, out of their extraordinary Readiness to oblige you, may be long since received, yet your S. S. Ship may arrive a Day after the Fair; and yet some People are of Opinion that it may may arrive full soon enough too. --- There is a Riddle for you!

A Point that has been much discuss'd of late is the Affair of Dunkirk. Perhaps it may be wonder'd, that after the Affidavits, and other modest Papers written by very modest Authors, which have been printed amongst you, tending to prove that nothing had been done at Dunkirk, that any new Discourse should be revived about it; but People talk as they see the Case; --- with you (they say), they talk as they feel it. In a Word, France has some national Points as well as Spain; I need say no more upon this Subject.

Wye's Letter Verbatim, London, Oct. 15.
Since our last arriv'd a French and 3 Flunders Mails.

A N. Essay upon Liberty, occasioned by some late Crafts-men on that Subject, is published to day; wherein the Author, amongst other Things, asserts, That some have not scrupled to make Liberty, which is the greatest Concern of Mankind, a Cloke to cover very base Designs; and as to Laws, he remarks, when they are past by the proper Legislators, they receive the Sanction of Authority by which every one is to be concluded, and all Debates ought then to cease, because they are determined by a just Authority: That as to the Liberty of the Press, he says, there are some who scorn to confine themselves to it as they ought, but ever and anon forth into the most scandalous Reflections upon those who have been, and still are, the Patrons of this and all other Liberty; and have not even spared him who is the greatest Protector of Liberty the World at this Day can boast of: And as to the Liberty of judging for our selves in Matters of Religion, he represents, that it has been most clearly shewn, that in the Christian Church there are no Legislators nor Interpreters of Christ's Laws, who have Right and Power to publish and declare his Will any otherwise than he has left it; so he adds, there can be no Judge of religious Controversies, nor any Ecclesiastical Authority, properly so call'd, but what is founded upon Usurpation.

We can't be certain as yet, though most believe, that the Right Rev. Dr. Hoadley, Bishop of Sarum, will

will succeed to the Bishoprick of Durham, which is reckoned the best Church Prebenter in England. The Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Walpole, we hear, designs next Tuesday to set out for his Seat in the County of Norfolk.

By the 3 Flanders Mails, one of them being as fresh as the Holland Mail now due, we are advised, that divers Ecclesiasticks and others were imprisoned near Civita Vecchia, and it was expected, that some of them would soon be condemned to Death, or suffer other heavy Punishment; That Cardinal Costia had resigned his Archbischopric of Benevento without obtaining any Pension or Consideration for it; and that the Pope had declared 4 Cardinals, viz. his Nuncios at Vienna, Paris and Madrid, and Signor Rospolia, Nephew to the late Pope, tho' but 34 Years old.

The Affair of the Incendiaries at Bristol is Matter of great Surprize to every body here; for besides what has been formerly mentioned, it appears by Affidavits laid before the Secretaries of State, that they threaten no less than to set the whole City in Flames: But as the Government has taken Cognizance of it, and offered the Reward mentioned in our last, 'tis hoped we shall soon hear of an ample Discovery. Mean time 'tis now reported, that there are a greater Number of Irish Papists in and about the City and Suburbs of London than has been known since the Revolution, and that some People began to be under Apprehensions of their being not so well disposed as they ought to be; for 'tis believed those at Bristol are the same, or Part of the Gang which lately threatened the Lives of Mr. Newnham, a Grocer of this City, and Nathaniel Gould of Hackney Esq;

Private Letters by the French Mail from Barcelona and Alicante confirm, that all the Transports, except the small ones fit for imbarcking Horses, were discharged, but not yet paid. However, before they sailed, the Spaniards desired they might be in readiness next Spring for the Expedition, if Need required.

Those from Cadix relate, that no Indulto was yet settled on the Effects brought by the Flotilla from La Vera Crux, which is no small Concern to such of our Merchants here who are interested therein.

The *Garland* Man of War is appointed to proceed to Cadix, in order to carry thence to New Spain the Order, if it can be obtained, of his Catholic Majesty to the Viceroy of Peru, for defor-

ming the Fair of Porto bello, as we lately mention'd.

From the Daily Post-Boy, Oct. 14.

Hague, Oct. 17. They tell us from Paris, that the Cardinal follows the King wherever he goes, since Discovery of the late Plot form'd against him by some great Men; who being supported by the Spanish Interest, will hardly be baulk'd by the first Rebuff, but may return to the Charge, unless his Eminence prevent them, (as some say he will) by retiring from Business, and taking his *Quietus*.

'Tis reported that the Emperor's Ministers endeavour by their Intrigues to clog the Wheels of Accommodation between the Courts of G. Britain and Prussia. Be that as it will, we are perswaded the Misunderstanding between the Courts of Vienna and Saxony will be but of short Duration, since their common Interest will oblige them to unite.

'Tis reported, That the Q^{ueen} of Spain inclines to revenge herself for what she may deem ill Usage, by changing Sides, if the Emperor will marry one of his Daughters to Don Carlos; a Point, whereof her Majesty never loses Sight.

But we rather believe the Intelligence that assures us, That the Seville Allies are unanimously resolved to make no Proposals to the Emperor; but if he does not accept of those already offered, they will enter the Field early in the Spring; and this the rather, that we see 3 Plans of the Operations of next Campaign.

Letters from Brabant advise, that they are busy at Luxemburg in building a Fort at the Gate of Triers, to keep at a Distance any Troops that may come to insult that Place. They add, That the French have sent a great Quantity of Ammunition and 12 Piece of heavy Cannon, to their Castle of Rothomagen between Luxemburg and Triers; and that they work Day and Night on the Fortifications of the Castle of Sierge, in the Marshes near Triers, where the D. of Marlborough formerly encamped. These Precautions of the French, and the augmenting of their Garrisons, makes us apprehend the War will open in Flanders early in the Spring. But we cannot give into the Pannick of those who say, that the French will this Winter possess themselves of several Forts and Castles in the Dutchy of Luxemburg; and so prevent that Capital from maintaining any Number of Hostes, and also form a Blockade of that Place.

Paris, Oct. 18. Our last Letters from Spain say, that

that his Catholic Majesty was now in better Health than he has been for many Years.

We are told, that they are actually at Work in filling up the Harbour of Dunkirk; but that they make less Riddance than when they repaired it. We do not know what all this means!

From the Evening Posts, Oct. 15.

Amsterdam, Oct. 13. 'Tis now confidently reported here, that the Prince Royal of Prussia will again soon appear at Court, a Reconciliation being as good as obtained. We hear from Mecklemburg, that the Commotions there daily increase, threatening very ill Consequences; That the Party for Duke Charles-Leopold shews itself more and more, an Association being entered into by several Towns to support his Highness with their Lives and Fortunes; and that several Persons suspected of this Conspiracy, were confined. They write from Milan, that the new King of Sardinia appears to be in the Interest of the Seville Allies.

Copenhagen, Oct. 15. Some Advices from Stockholm import, that his Majesty intended to accept a Proposition of the Court of Russia, for entering into a Treaty with the Czarina and his Prussian Majesty, as well on Account of the considerable Encouragement that was like to accrue to his Subjects Commerce, as for several other Advantages. His Majesty continues so dangerously ill, that the Physicians are in some Doubt touching his Recovery.

Some Advices from Petersburgh import, that her Czarish Majesty was on the Point of setting out from Moscow thither, where she intended to remain about six Months, in order to settle certain Affairs of Importance. 'Tis further added, that Orders were given for augmenting the Russian Cavalry, for the better aggrandizing the Court.

Vienna, Oct. 8. Upon a Report that the Turks were amassing vast Quantities of Corn and Warlike Stores on the Frontiers of Hungary, six thousand Foot are ordered to get ready to march thither for the better Security of the Towns which ly most exposed to the Insults of the Infidels.

London, Oct. 15. Last Tuesday the Royal Family came to Richmond about 2 in the Afternoon from Windsor.

Last Saturday a Fire happened at Dunstable in Bedfordshire, by a Flash of Lightning, which im-

mediately burnt a House and a Child.

On Saturday a Bull belonging to the Lord Halifax was killed by a Flash of Lightning, at his Lordship's Farm at Apps Court.

Yesterday the invincible Mr. James Figg fought at his Amphitheatre Mr. Holmes an Irishman, who keeps an Inn at Yaul near Waterford in Ireland, and came into England on purpose to fight this English Champion; when Mr. Figg, fighting with his usual Bravery and Judgment, at the second Bout cut him over the left Wrist to the Bone, in so desperate a Manner, that he was disabled, and went off the Stage; this being the 271 Prizes Mr. Figgs has fought, and never conquered, there was the fullest House that ever was known on like Occasion.

King's College Aberdeen, Oct. 14. On Monday last her Grace the Duchess of Gordon, with my Lord Duke and Lord Charles her Sons, and the Earl of Aberdeen, with a handsome Attendance, arrived here; where her Grace appoints her Sons Education on with a suitable Family and Equipage, as several Ancestors of that Noble Family formerly did: Which cannot but give a particular Satisfaction to all who wish well to the Protestant Interest.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

¶¶¶ That Mr. JAMES CRAIG, Professor of Civil and Canon Law in the University of Edinburgh, begins his Colleges upon the Civil Law, the first Tuesday of November next, at the Place and Hours as formerly.

¶¶¶ ALEXANDER BAYNE, Professor of the Municipal Law, begins his College on Sir GEORGE MACKENZIE's Institutions, on Monday the Ninth of November, at the usual Place and Hour; and sometime in the Week following, begins his College on the Criminal Law, at a proper Hour in the Evening.

¶¶¶ Stolen or Strayed from BRACHLIE in the Shire of Kinross, upon Wednesday-Night the 7th of October Inst. TWO HORSES: One black, about 14 or 15 Hands high, short dock'd, hurt near the Shoulder by the Saddle, hollow above the Eyes; about 6 Years old, and 6 L. sterl. Price: The Other a Blue gray, short dock'd, spoilt upon the Top of the Shoulder, with some freckled Spots on his Head and Craig, very hollow above the Eyes, rough in the Pasters, about 6 Years old, and 5 Guineas Price. Whoever can give Notice of them to Mr. James Farquhar Merchant, at his Shop opposite to the Luckenbooths, Edinburgh; or to James Steedman, Merchant in Kinross, or George Philips, Flesher in Dumfermling, shall be sufficiently rewarded, and no Questions ask'd.

EDINBURGH : Printed For and By Mrs. Thomas and Walter Ruddiman. Sold at the Printing-house; and at Mr. Alexander Symmer's Shop in the Parliament-Cose. At both which Places, Advertisements and Subscriptions are taken in.